

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Edward J. Hall, June 8, 1903

Copied for the Biography copy of the paragraphs marked sent Mrs. Ann Brown, Lib. of Congress 6/22/42. 1331 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C. June 8, 1903. Mr. Edward J. Hall, Vice President & General Manager, American Telephone & Telegraph Company, 15 Dey Street, New York City. Dear Mr. Hall:

Your note of May 27 was received in due course, and a search has been made for a copy of the paper referred to by Mr. Hubbard,— Mrs. Bell has just found it, and wit it a letter from her father, (Mr. Hubbard) dated January 4, 1895, in which he says “I enclose Alec's paper written years ago. It is a remarkable paper and should be preserved.” Mrs. Bell has preserved it so carefully that it has taken her several days to find it!

[I may briefly recite the circumstances under which this paper was written:—

I was married on the 11th of July 1877, and went abroad very shortly afterwards and remained continuously abroad for about one year. Colonel Reynolds of Providence, R. I. undertook to organize in England a telephone company to work my invention there. He was at work upon this in the winter of 1877 and spring of 1878, and early in 1878 Colonel Reynolds requested me to write an address to the capitalists he had succeeded in interesting, setting forth the advantages of the telephone. This I did in a paper read from Kensington March 25, 1878, addressed “To the Capitalists of the Electric Telephone Company”.] I remember that this paper was printed as a sort of prospectus, and a copy given to the gentlemen concerned and any others interested. I believe I have somewhere one of these original printed copies, but I cannot lay my hands upon it at the present time. The copy preserved by Mr. Hubbard is a typewritten copy, when made I have no means of ascertaining. I beg to enclose a copy of this document, and would like very much to know whether it really ante dates the organization of any of the existing central offices. [It

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expresses of course the ideas of the development of the telephone I had in my mind in the autumn of 1877 when I went to England.]

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell